



## Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office  
P. O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

January 31, 2001

### **DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. DE-RP05-00OR22860**

The Department of Energy (DOE) seeks comments from interested parties on the enclosed draft Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP describes a major DOE acquisition for the disposition of the Department's inventory of uranium-233 ( $^{233}\text{U}$ ) stored at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The contract type contemplated is Firm-Fixed Price and Fixed Unit Price. This draft is DOE's preliminary approach to achieving DOE objectives and identifying requirements for the project. DOE seeks comments from interested parties on all aspects of the RFP in order to ensure that the final product reflects the most effective approach for obtaining the required services. DOE anticipates that the services will be acquired using the negotiated process as described in Part 15 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

The services being acquired consist of (1) processing and repackaging the  $^{233}\text{U}$  inventory in Building 3019A to render it suitable for safe, long term, economical storage, including elimination of the need for criticality and safeguards and security controls; (2) extracting thorium-229 ( $^{229}\text{Th}$ ) from as much of the inventory as practicable in an effort to increase its availability to support cancer research and treatment; (3) operation of Building 3019A during contract performance, and (4) placing Building 3019A in a safe, stable shutdown mode. As part of this effort, DOE envisions a lease of the  $^{229}\text{Th}$  for beneficial use.

In particular, we are interested in:

1. Whether DOE has described our requirements in sufficient detail and provided adequate characterization information to support the Firm-Fixed-Price/Fixed Unit Price contracting strategy described in the draft RFP. If not, what additional information would be necessary and why.
2. Comments on material disposition strategy, including processing technologies, packaging, and specified end points.
3. Whether it would be more practical to process the  $^{233}\text{U}$  on-site or off-site, and the reasons for choosing one site over the other.
4. Comments on the optimum amount of time necessary to complete  $^{233}\text{U}$  downblending and repackaging, initial  $^{229}\text{Th}$  extraction, and Building 3019A shutdown.

5. Comments on the  $^{229}\text{Th}$  leasing approach (e.g. lease terms and conditions and duration) and any preferred alternate approach to leasing.
6. Alternate approaches for providing financial benefits to the Government in exchange for beneficial use of the  $^{229}\text{Th}$  (e.g. services in kind toward building deactivation, thorium lease payments, etc.).
7. Whether there is interest in the  $^{233}\text{U}$  material after down-blending for subsequent  $^{229}\text{Th}$  extraction, and if so, what would be the preferred approach to obtaining (e.g. lease or other) and retaining this material.
8. Comments on any interest in using DOE surplus/underutilized facilities in Oak Ridge to locate commercial facilities related to this effort.
9. Whether the Savannah River depleted uranium described in the Statement of Work is suitable for down-blending purposes.
10. Whether there are any terms and conditions which DOE could offer to reduce any contingency pricing.

The Department is evaluating workforce transition issues with respect to this project. Therefore, there are currently no clauses addressing this matter in the draft RFP.

Please provide your comments to the undersigned no later than March 2, 2001. You may provide your comments via electronic mail to [u233seb@oro.doe.gov](mailto:u233seb@oro.doe.gov). All comments will be considered, but no individual responses will be provided. The identity of the organization and/or individual submitting comments will remain confidential. You are encouraged to check our web site frequently as we may have other material that we may need your input on.

The DOE seeks innovative solutions and industry partners who are willing to invest their technical and financial resources in this venture. This project provides a unique opportunity to solve an important national problem. If your company is positioned to accept this challenge, we encourage you to participate in this competitive selection process.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Burgan  
Contracting Officer